

Nepenthes! The Extended Guide



Be aware that it might take a couple of weeks for a plant to adapt to the new growing conditions you give it, especially if they are vastly different from the conditions it came from! It's normal to see a colour shift or a dieback of leaves as a result of this change. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us anytime!

Origin: Nepenthes are found in warm, moist regions with high biodiversity in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and Madagascar. They also exist on many islands, such as Borneo and the Philippines. They are generally separated into Highland and Lowland species, with the former found in mossy forests and the latter in high-humidity jungles. Humans have also created many hybrid species of Nepenthes with unique colours and the ability to adapt to many different environments.

Sun: We always recommend grow lights for our carnivorous species to help them thrive, as natural light from a window is often unreliable. If you cannot have a grow light, a sunny window would do best. Nepenthes (Monkey cups) thrive in bright, indirect light; avoid direct light, as it can burn the leaves. Early-morning and late-afternoon sun is preferred over the intensity of midday. They are usually kept as hanging vine plants, because at maturity they produce very long, low-hanging blooms.

Fun Fact: These plants are dioecious, meaning they have either male or female parts and cannot self-pollinate. You'll never know what you have unless your plant blooms, although males are more common in cultivation.

Humidity: Nepenthes require higher humidity to grow best, usually around 60% at a minimum, but certain hybrids adapt to lower levels (50%) if properly acclimated. You can raise humidity by placing them on a tray of pebbles, covering them with a glass or plastic cover that lets light through, and misting them multiple times a day. Many people place these in their bathrooms, which is the most humid room in the house.

Temperature: Nepenthes like it warm, and depending on the Lowland and Highland types, their needs can differ. To stay safe its best to stay between 20 and 30 degrees. Many species also appreciate cooler nights, but make sure it doesn't fall below 18 degrees. A drop in temperature at night is crucial for the plant's longevity, especially for Highland species. Nepenthes do not require a dormancy period and will die if exposed to temperatures colder than 10 degrees.

Watering: DO NOT USE TAP WATER. Tap water has a high mineral content, which these guys are not designed to handle. Eventually, those minerals will build up in the roots and kill the plants! Options are distilled water, reverse osmosis, and rainwater. Water is crucial for the production of digestive fluid in their cups.

Soil: DO NOT USE POTTING SOIL. Potting soil contains fertilizers and minerals that can kill carnivorous plants. The most common media used for Nepenthes is a mix of peat moss, perlite and sand. Sphagnum moss mixed with perlite or on its own is considered to be the best, just like we do in the nursery!

Feeding: DO NOT FEED HUMAN FOOD! Nepenthes are ravenous; they'll eat anything that fits in their cups, including bugs, freeze-dried or thawed bloodworms and flaked fish food. But make sure

that the cup you are feeding contains their digestive fluid; without it, they cannot eat. Avoid overfeeding, because although it won't kill the plant, it can cause issues with growing